

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8749

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY CAARACAS

UNCLAS OTTAWA 0497

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, CA, MX, VE

SUBJECT: CANADA STUDYING FULL MEMBERSHIP IN OAS

1. FOLLOWING EXCHANGE INITIATED BY LIBERAL BACK-BENCHER
DUCLOS TOOK PLACE IN COMMONS QUESTION PERIOD, FEBRUARY 4.

2. BEGIN QUOTE: MR. LOUIS DUCLOS (MONTMORENCY); MR.
SPEAKER, I WOULD LIKE TO DIRECT A QUESTION TO THE RIGHT
HON, PRIME MINISTER.

3. COULD THE PRIME MINISTER TELL THE HOUSE WHETHER, IN THE
COURSE OF THE TALKS HE HAS HAD WITH THE POLITICAL AUTHORITIES
OF MEXICO, CUBA AND VENEZUELA, THE MATTER OF CANADA EVEN-
TUALLY JOINING THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES HAS
BEEN RAISED, AND IF SO, COULD HE SAY WHETHER, IN HIS
OPINION, CANADA WOULD HAVE ADVANTAGE IN JOINING THE OAS
AND COULD MAKE A USEFUL CONTRIBUTION?

4. RIGHT HON. P.E. TRUDEAU (PRIME MINISTER): YES,
MR. SPEAKER, I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS
MATTER WITH THE THREE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT I HAVE MET
IN THE HOPE, PRECISELY, AS THE HON. MEMBER IS SUGGESTING,
THAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT POLICY MIGHT TAKE THEIR
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POINTS OF VIEW INTO ACCOUNT. I MUST SAY THAT THE

RESULTS HAVE BEEN RATER SURPRISING. PRESIDENT PEREZ
OF VENEZUELA HAS STRONGLY URGED US TO BECOME A FULL MEM-
BER. WE ARE NOW AN OBSERVER. AS FOR PRIME MINISTER CASTRO,
HE WAS, OF COURSE, EXTREMELY NEGATIVE IN RESPECT OF THE
ORGANIZATION. FINALLY, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA SEEMED TO BE
DIVIDED BETWEEN THE TWO. THEN, MR. SPEAKER, THE QUESTION
REMAINS ENTIRE IN OUR MIND, AND I HAVE COMMITTED MYSELF
VIS-A-VIS PRESIDENT PEREZ TO ASK THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TO UNDERTAKE A NEW STUDY OF THE
MATTER. END QUOTE.
JOHNSON

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